1   **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

2   **Listing of Claims:**

3   <u>What is claimed, is:</u>

4   1. (currently amended) <u>A method</u> ~~Method~~ of providing index server support to a file sharing

5   application, <u>said</u> method comprising:

6   •   handling requests for investigating a hierarchical structure of index servers in a network,

7   including

8   •   intercepting an investigation request that is directed to a remote index server, and

9   •   notifying an originator of the investigation request of the intercepting index server

10   identity.

11   2. (currently amended) <u>A method</u> ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, <u>further</u> comprising

12   notifying the remote index server of the intercepting index server identity.

13   3. (currently amended) <u>A method</u> ~~Method~~ according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, <u>further</u> comprising

14   •   accepting an investigation request as recipient,

15   •   notifying an originator of the investigation request in response to the investigation

16   request.

17   4. (currently amended) <u>A method</u> ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, further ~~any one of the preceding~~

18   ~~claims,~~ comprising

19   •   receiving a note from a remote intercepting index server disclosing its identity,

20   •   registering the remote intercepting index server as child index server.

1   5. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, further ~~any one of the preceding~~

2   ~~claims,~~ comprising

3   • sending an investigation request to a known index server,

4   • receiving a notification in response to the request.

5   6. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 5, further comprising

6   registering the known index server as a parent index server when the known index server

7   is the originator of the received note.

8   7. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6,~~ further comprising

9   registering the originator of the received note as parent index server when the originator

10   of the received note is not the known index server.

11   8. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6,~~ further comprising

12   • sending an investigation request to the originator of the response when the originator of

13   the received note is not the known index server but another index server, and

14   • receiving a further notification in response to this further investigation message.

15   9. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 8, further comprising

16   registering the originator of the further notification as parent index server.

17   10. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, further ~~any one of the preceding~~

18   ~~claims,~~ comprising

19   • handling requests for querying a file as part of a file sharing application, including

20   • searching an index of the index server for a registered client that can provide the queried

21   file.

22   11. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 10, comprising

23   forwarding the query to a registered child index server when the queried file is not

24   allocated to a client registered in the index.

1   12. (currently amended) A method Method according to claim 10 or claim 11, comprising

2   forwarding the query to a registered parent index server when the queried file is not

3   allocated to a client registered in the index.

4   13. (currently amended)An index Index server, comprising

5   a control logic that is configured for performing a method as claimed in any one of the preceding

6   claims claim 1.

7   14. (currently amended) A computer Computer program element comprising computer program

8   code which, when loaded in a processor unit of an index server, configures the processor unit for

9   performing a method as claimed in claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 12.

10   15. (currently amended) A method Method for retrieving an index server, said method

11   comprising:

12   •   sending a request for investigating a hierarchical structure of index servers in a network to a

13   known index server,

14   •   receiving a notification in response to the investigation request, and

15   •   registering the originator of the received note as destination for future file query requests.

16   16. (currently amended) A client Client computer for performing a file sharing application, said

17   client computer comprising a control logic that is configured for performing a method as claimed

18   in claim 15.

19   17. (currently amended) A computer Computer program element comprising computer program

20   code which, when loaded in a processor unit of a client computer, configures the processor unit

21   for performing a method as claimed in claim 15.

22   18. (currently amended) A method Method for retrieving an index server, said method

23   comprising:

1   ~~wherein~~

2   • <u>an originator sending</u> a request for investigating a hierarchical structure of index servers in a

3   network ~~is sent~~ to a known index server<u>,</u>~~,~~

4   • ~~the investigation request is intercepted by the~~ <u>a</u> first index server that becomes aware of the

5   investigation request, <u>intercepting said investigation request;</u>

6   • <u>notifying</u> an originator of the investigation request ~~is notified~~ of the ~~intercepting~~ <u>first</u> index

7   server identity,

8   • ~~the intercepted request is dropped by~~ the intercepting index server <u>dropping the intercepted</u>

9   <u>request</u> without forwarding it to its destination, and

10 • the originator of the investigation request ~~is~~ registering the intercepting index sever as

11 addressee for file querying requests.

12

13 19. (new) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer

14   readable program code means embodied therein for causing provision of index server

15   support to a file sharing application, the computer readable program code means in said

16   article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a

17   computer to effect the steps of claim 1.

18 20. (new) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of

19 instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for retrieving an index server,

20 said method steps comprising the steps of claim 18.